

Chairman's Newsletter

Number 3. August, 1979.

"STATE OF THE SOCIETY" MESSAGE.

By the time you receive this, ISASC will be close to concluding its third year of existence, and I'm thoroughly pleased to tell you our society is not only alive and well but flourishing in every respect. Our membership count now stands at 123, we're represented in 14 countries around the globe, and not a week goes by without a spate of membership inquiries and new applications crossing my desk. The future looks bright, indeed!

SAN FRANCISCO A GALA GET-TOGETHER.

Gala is the only word for it. About 15 members, most with spouses, came to the city of cable cars in late April for our first International Symposium and Auction. Kudos go to Bill Doniger, who did a yeoman job in putting together the symposium, a first-class event in every respect. I was pleased to act as Chairman, and the day-long program consisted of a number of exceptionally interesting and scholarly talks--supported by slides, charts, diagrams, exhibits, etc. Speakers included Michael and Diana Crawforth (who, between the two of them, delivered no less than three talks), Norman Sturgess, Joel Malter, Bob Roberts, and Bill Doniger. Most of the talks were either prepared in advance or tape-recorded during their delivery, and it's Michael Crawforth's intention to include certain ones in future issues of EQM.

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Saturday evening was a festive occasion, when 36 of us met for cocktails and dinner at the Assay Office, a very nice restaurant that prominently displays several of Bob Roberts' scales, including a huge turn-of-the-century money scale originally owned by the San Francisco mint.

Sunday morning a number of our members met informally to talk scales and do some bartering, and that afternoon the auction took place. The audience was good-sized, bidding was spirited, and it seemed that everyone went home with one or more acquisitions. Joel Malter and his staff deserve our thanks for their contribution to the professional air that characterized the weekend, and, of course, our thanks to Dick Wagers, without whose collection there would have been no auction. Others besides those already mentioned who came from near and far for the weekend included Betty and Frank Wright, Ruth and Will Willard, Dave and Jean Colker, Bess Sturgess, Mort Wormser, Tony and Fran Bacon, John and Elva Gerling, Herb and Iona Chandler, Russell and Oleta Stevens, Fritz and Gretl Schmerl, Bill and Gerry Bauer, Mary Doniger, Dick Dewey, Jackie Wagers, Adele Malter, Margie Stein, Aaron Traum and Jeanette Canter, and Monty and Marion Montanari.

DIRECTORY UPDATE.

Our new membership directory, which we assume everyone has received by now, comprised 105 names. Although every effort was taken to maintain accuracy, it may be that an occasional error occurred during the compilation of the card sets. Therefore, we suggest you count your cards to make sure they number 105, at the same time checking the names themselves to make sure there are no duplicates. If, perchance, you discover that you don't have 105 different cards, let me know and I'll do what's necessary to correct the situation.

Enclosed are additional cards for our newest members, ready for filing in your card-directory, along with revised cards for those members who have had a change or correction of address.

PROSPECTS BY THE HUNDREDS.

One benefit of our membership in the National Scale Men's Association is the opportunity to tell the 2100+ NSMA members about ISASC, and that's just what we've done. Through the cooperation of their headquarters office, we were able to include in a mailing to their membership our Society's promotional piece, which we felt would spark interest in ISASC among a number of their members who are scale collectors of long standing but who haven't heard of us as yet. At this writing we've already received a fistful of inquiries, which undoubtedly will result in some more new members.

ANYONE FOR INSURANCE?

Several members have suggested we investigate the idea of a group plan that would enable members to insure their scale collections at a relatively low cost. We're already talking to an insurance company along these lines, but before we get too involved, we need an expression from our members as to the extent of their interest, however tentative. Enclosed is a simple questionnaire-card that we'd like you to fill out and return to us. If a good number of members show interest, we'll pursue the idea and get back to you when there's more to tell.

CATALOGS TO CHRONICLE YOUR COLLECTION.

A long, low bow deservedly goes to Norman Sturgess, who loaned us his rare Fairbanks catalog #980 for several months so that we could reproduce it in quantity. It was ISASC's first catalog offering, and 20 members were quick to order a copy. The task of reproducing, collating, binding and mailing them was manfully undertaken by Tod Carley, who deserves a ringing accolade for so competently handling the project.

Our second offering is an 18-page, 1911 catalog by Pelouze, a prominent Chicago scale manufacturer. It illustrates and describes in detail an assortment of postal scales that are real collectors' items. The cost, postage included, is \$6.00. To order one or more copies, use the enclosed reply card.

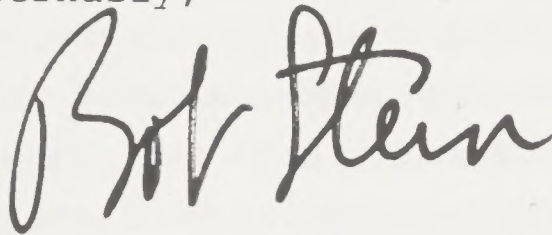
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SPEAKING OF MEMBER SERVICES...

another idea that's come our way is to make available a binder to hold copies of EQM, perhaps a 3- to 5-year supply. We're thinking of something with a plastic hard cover, titled on the spine and/or front. Considering our relatively small membership and attendant nominal need, such a binder probably would cost about \$10. Here, again, before we get too involved we'd like an expression of interest, so please tell us how you feel about this service on the enclosed card.

So much for what's going on these days. Happy collecting!

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bob Stein". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Fraternally,".